REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Action dated January 9, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,285,785 to Bellegarda et al. ("Bellegarda") and rejected claims 3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Bellegarda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,539,113 to Van Kleeck.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14-20 have been amended. Therefore, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-20 remain pending, of which claims 1, 6, 12, 17, and 20 are independent claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses the claim rejections based on the following reasons.

As amended, claim 1 recites a method of integrating vocal input recognition and handwriting input recognition, comprising, among other things, receiving a syllabic vocal signal representing an object alphanumeric symbol, generating an alphanumeric symbol array having a plurality of candidate alphanumeric symbols corresponding to the object alphanumeric symbol, displaying the plurality of candidate alphanumeric symbols, receiving an input handwriting signal representing a feature of the object alphanumeric symbol, and extracting a most coincidental candidate alphanumeric symbol from the plurality of candidate alphanumeric symbols corresponding to the feature.

The above "display" feature is also incorporated into each of amended independent claims 1, 6, 12, 17, and 20. In addition, amended method claim 6 recites a first signal and an optional second signal. Amended claims 12, 17, and 20 are system or apparatus claims that include a display for displaying the plurality of candidate alphanumeric symbols that are generated based on a first signal that can be a vocal signal or a handwriting signal.

The cited prior art Bellegarda relates to a method and apparatus for operating an automatic message recognition system. In Bellegarda, a vocal signal and a handwriting signal are input through a first and second transducers, respectively. In response to the vocal and handwriting signals, a first likelihood estimator generates a first list comprised of one or more probable message conveyed by the information content of the first signal and a second likelihood estimator generates a second list comprised of one of more probable messages conveyed by the information content of the second signal. Bellegarda further comprises a likelihood merger for selectively merging the first list and the second list to form a third list,

and a decoder for selecting from the third list a most probable one of the probable messages to be an output message.

While Bellegarda is mainly used in recognizing English, it would not be useful in recognizing Asian languages, such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and so on. One reason is because Bellegarda requires to input a complete word when inputting the handwriting signal, which will be far more complicated when used in inputting, for example, a complete Chinese character. This is because Chinese characters are composed of different radicals and the same pronunciation may represent a number of characters with different radicals. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Bellegarda is not an appropriate tool for recognizing Asian languages.

In terms of the claimed scope, Bellegarda fails to teach or suggest at least displaying the plurality of candidate alphanumeric symbols (that is, generated according to the object alphanumeric symbol according to a first signal/input), as recited in amended claims 1 and 6 and a display for displaying the plurality of candidate alphanumeric symbols, as recited in amended claims 12, 17, and 20. In Bellegarda, the plurality of probable messages are generated *only after* merging the first list composed of one or more probable messages conveyed by the information content of the first signal and the second list composed of one or more probable messages convey by the information content of the second signals.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 6, 12, 17, and 20 are not anticipated by Bellegarda based on the reasons stated above.

Furthermore, as described above, because Bellegarda cannot be used to recognize any Asian language, it would not have been obvious for one skilled in the art to revise Bellegarda to achieve the method and system of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1, 6, 12, 17, and 20 should be patentable over Bellegarda.
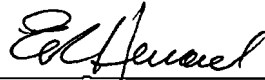
With respect to the rejection of dependent claims 2-5, 7-11, 13-16, and 18-19, Applicant respectfully submits that such claims should be also patentable at least due to their dependencies from patentable independent claims.

As a result of these Amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the formal matters have now been addressed. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment so that this application may be passed quickly to issue.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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